

CITY OF HARDIN - TSEP HEARING HANDOUT

JANUARY 13, 2009

The City of Hardin Wastewater System Improvements Project consists of approximately 31,600 lineal feet of collection system rehabilitation and/or replacement, addition of UV disinfection, and expansion of City wastewater services to the Watson Drive area. A map of the proposed improvements is attached.

UV Disinfection

The City of Hardin currently discharges treated wastewater into the Bighorn River, of which a new discharge permit was recently issued by the Environmental Protection Agency. Since issuance of the new permit in late 2006, the City of Hardin has been unable to meet the new, more stringent permit limits for fecal coliform during the summer months. Because the Bighorn River is used for recreational purposes including fishing, boating, and swimming, the potential for human contact with fecal coliform is a very serious threat to the safety and health of the public. Providing UV disinfection would allow the City to treat their wastewater to the much more stringent permit limits improving the health and safety of those recreating the Bighorn River.

Collection System

The collection system rehabilitation project is necessary primarily due to an aging system. The original collection system was installed in 1917 and is now over 90 years old. Television inspection of the sewer lines have shown that the lines are in poor structural condition. The City also has a large amount of infiltration problems as a result of the poor condition of the lines. The infiltration not only leads to extra costs of treating "clean" water but also can upset the performance of their treatment plant. The City has already televised the entire collection system identified for potential improvements and is ready to move forward with design and construction as soon as funds are available.

Watson Drive

Watson Drive is an area that sits to the northeast of the City of Hardin and is currently not included within the City limits. The lots within the area are approximately 1/8 acre or less and all residents within the area are currently on individual water and wastewater systems. Most of the wastewater systems consist of failing septic systems, which have been directly linked to the contamination of the drinking water for this area. To discuss more of the problem, Henry and Lisa Maine are here to provide their first hand experience as they have been residents of the Watson Drive area for 12 years.

Lisa Maine to testify regarding personal experience with problems in Watson Drive. Her 3-year old son fell ill in 1999 due to fecal contamination of their well water. The illness was documented by a doctor at the Hardin Clinic. Related correspondence is attached to the handout.

Other problems: Many residents cannot flush toilet paper due to the failing septic tanks – instead the toilet paper has to be thrown away. Smells of sewage in summer oftentimes

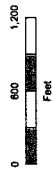
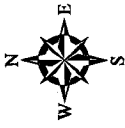
necessitate closing of windows. There are even cisterns contaminated due to clay soils that cause the tanks to crack allowing contamination of the water. Some residents refuse to bathe at home and instead visit other family members in town to bathe.

Obviously, the problems in the Watson Drive area are very significant and not of recent origin (illness of James Maine occurred 10 years ago). Unfortunately, the area has been working towards annexation and other potential solutions for many years, but to no avail. However, with TSEP funds available for the expansion of sewer services to this area, the annexation process could be completed. As part of the annexation requirements, both water and wastewater services would be provided to the area. This would not only stop the groundwater contamination in the area but in the long-term would also provide the area with clean, treated City water eliminating their reliance completely on the contaminated groundwater.

Watson Drive is such a significant health and safety threat that it simply cannot be ignored any longer. The project as a whole including the collection system improvements and implementation of disinfection will help to bring the wastewater system into compliance with state and federal standards. It is also important to note that the City is in a position to begin design work immediately so that construction could begin this year, as soon as TSEP funds would become available.

Attachments:

- Map of Proposed Improvements
- Letter from Hardin Clinic to Big Horn County Sanitarian regarding illness of James Maine due to contaminated water
- Notice from Big Horn County Sanitarian to all Gable Boulevard and Watson Drive Residents
- Water Testing Results for Watson Drive area
- Picture of failing Mound System
- Letter from DEQ to Big Horn County Sanitarian noting health threat of Watson Drive area
- Letter from Big Horn County Health Department to City of Hardin noting health threat and recommending annexation
- Letters of support from Watson Drive residents



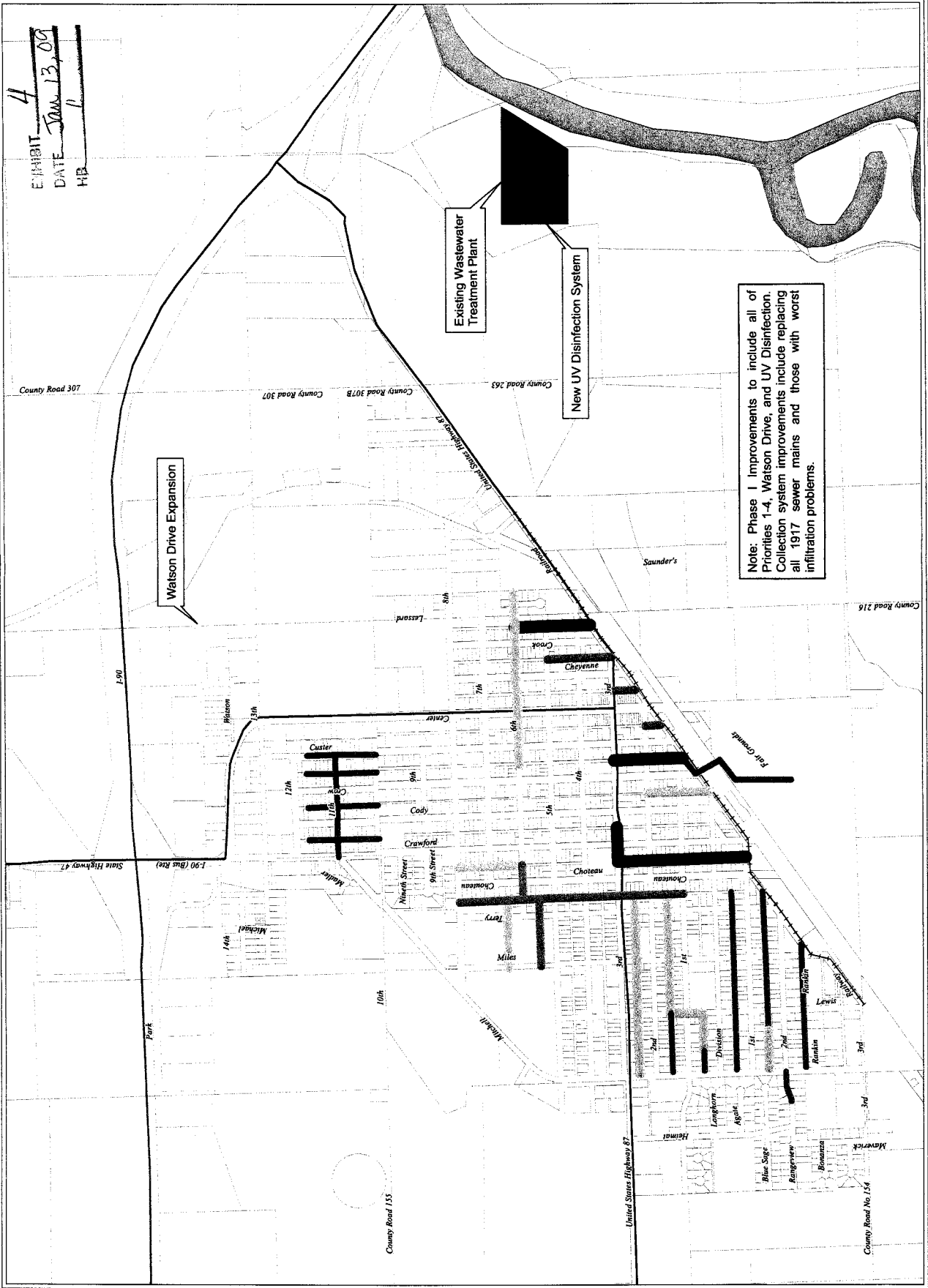
Legend

- Tax Parcels
- Major Lakes
- Interstate
- Highway
- Railroads
- Major Streams

Rehabilitation Priorities

- Priority One
- Priority Two
- Priority Three
- Priority Four
- Alternative WD-1

Figure 9.1: Phase I
Improvements





HARDIN CLINIC

Primary Care Network

EXHIBIT

DATE

HB

A-1

4

Jan 13, 09

11

Diana Das, MD
Carolyn Greimann, MD
Gary Ostahowski, MD
R. R. Whiting, Jr, MD
Kimberley Caprata, PA-C
Melody Murter, FNP

October 13, 1999

Craig Taft
Big Horn County Sanitarian
809 N. Custer
Hardin, MT 59034

Re: James Maine
DOB 06-30-93
Address: 1407 N. Custer
Hardin, MT 59034

Dear Craig:

On 8/18/99 I saw James Maine in the clinic with chronic diarrhea and because of his symptoms ordered some studies on his diarrhea. There are no parasites seen in his stool but the stool culture did grow out a campylobacter organism, which is rather unusual and strongly suggests fecal contamination of something that he is ingesting. His mother provides with me a copy of the laboratory report on their well water performed by Energy Laboratories Inc. of Billings, Montana. This shows that there is 2150 milligrams per liter of sulfate, 3530 milligrams per liter total dissolved solids, and coliform bacteria present. The sulfate and total solids exceed the maximum recommended standards for drinking. There is also coliform bacterial present in the water that shows the water to be bacterially contaminated and unsuitable for drinking. Of note is that their water is also very hard.

I felt that the situation was of significant public health concern and it should be brought to your attention. Please don't hesitate to call me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

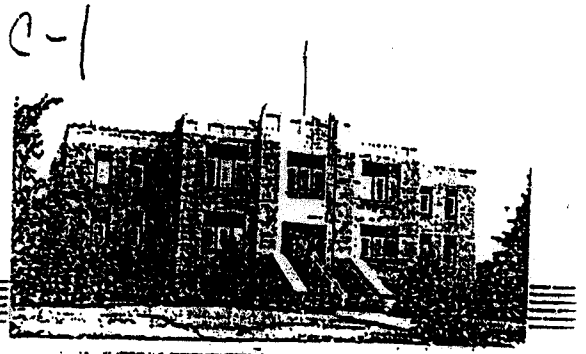
Aaron R. Billin, MD

ARB: clb

Enclosures: Laboratory results from 8/18/99 and drinking water analysis from 8/25/99

BIG HORN COUNTY

HARDIN, MONTANA 59034



July 11, 2000

TO: ALL GABLE BOULEVARD AND WATSON DRIVE HOME OWNERS/RENTERS
FROM: CRAIG TAFT, RS

This letter is to inform you that the County Health Department has recently received verbal information that several water wells and one cistern have been tested for coliform bacteria in the Watson Drive area. Some of the water systems tested positive for total coliform bacteria, according to the system owners. The coliform test is used as an indicator of fecal contamination. Fecal contaminated domestic water wells or cisterns may contain disease producing organisms such as bacteria, viruses, protozoa, etc., that can cause mild to severe illness in people depending on the type of organism and the age and condition of the person.

The County Health Department recommends that all water wells and cisterns in the Watson Drive and Gable Boulevard area be tested for the coliform bacteria. Nitrates plus nitrite levels should also be tested and should not be over 10ppm to avoid blood poisoning known as "Blue Baby Syndrome" (methemoglobinemia). Nitrate in water wells may indicate contamination from agricultural runoff or septic systems. The County Health Department has the water sampling bottles that are available to anyone that wishes to test their water. Water testing laboratories can be found in the yellow pages under "Water Analysis" or "Laboratories-Testing", or the State Lab can be used, as indicated with the sample bottles. Cost of coliform testing typically ranges from about \$16.50 to \$25.00 per test plus first class mailing costs. Nitrate plus nitrite test cost is included in a "Basic Water Sanitation Screen" at the State Lab for \$25.00 per test (includes total coliform, conductivity, and nitrate/nitrite testing).

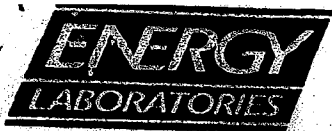
High groundwater, flood irrigation practices, very slow percolation rates, inadequate water or sewage treatment system design and maintenance, age of water/sewage treatment systems, and separation distances from water/sewage systems are factors that can cause wells or cisterns to become contaminated with coliform bacteria, nitrate/nitrites or other organisms/chemicals.

If you have any test results, I would appreciate receiving a copy. Water systems testing positive should not be used until it is sanitized, retested, and found to be negative for coliform bacteria before drinking or other uses, and periodic retesting should be done. The County Health Department is available to answer questions on how to properly sanitize a well or cistern. A basic disinfection procedure for coliform bacteria in domestic wells is enclosed for your convenience.

If you have any questions please call me at 665-1005.

Sincerely,

Craig Taft, RS
Big Horn County Health Department
809 N. Custer



ENERGY LABORATORIES, INC.

P.O. BOX 30916 • 1120 SOUTH 27TH STREET • BILLINGS, MT 59107-0916 • PHONE (406) 252-6325
FAX (406) 252-6069 • 1-800-735-4489 • E-MAIL info@energylab.com

B-1

LABORATORY REPORT

TO: Kris Clausen
ADDRESS: RR 1 Box 1216E
Hardin, MT 59034

LAB NO.: 001-00-51427
DATE: 02/25/00 ta

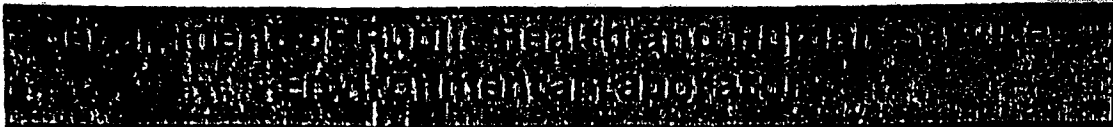
WATER ANALYSIS

Watson Drive Sample
Sampled 02/23/00 @ 1800
Submitted 02/24/00
Analyzed 02/24/00

Total Coliform Bacteria..... Present
E-Coli Absent

This Total Coliform Bacteria analysis shows this water to be bacterially contaminated and unsuitable for drinking. Analysis done by EPA Approved Methodology, Colilert.

6-3



Cogswell Building, Rm B219, 1400 Broadway, Helena MT 59620

- RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS -

TIFFANY A NICHOLS
7 WATSON DR
HARDIN MT 59034

Acct # PRIVATE T77499
Date Printed 10/04/2000

Collect Date: 10/02/00
Collect Time: 7:00
Collected By: TIFFANY NICHOLS
Chlorine Residual:
Sample Type:

Lab #: W0010-06690

PWSID #:

Sample ID: TIFFANY A NICHOLS - 7 WATSON DR

Test ID	Result	Units
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Total Coliform by Presence/Absence PRESENT

CONTAMINATED: Water supply should be disinfected and retested before it is used as drinking water or for household purposes

Lab Comment: _____

Approved by: 2/14

Questions about results or billing? Call Environmental Laboratory, "Water Micro" @ (406) 444-2642 or fax us at (406) 444-2617. For other questions, or for technical support please call your county sanitarian, or MT Department of Environmental Quality, Community Services Bureau, Drinking Water Program @ (406) 444-4400

13-4

**Department of Public Health and Human Services
Environmental Laboratory**

Cogswell Building, Rm B219, 1400 Broadway, Helena MT 59620

- RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS -

STANLEY M GRESS
1411 NO CENTER AVE
HARDIN

MT 59034

Acct # PRIVATE T77501

Date Printed 10/04/2000

Collect Date: 10/02/00

Collect Time: 6:00

Collected By: STANLEY M GRESS

Chlorine Residual:

Sample Type:

Lab#: W0010-06695

PWSID #:

Sample ID: STANLEY M GRESS - 1411 NO CENTER-CISTERN

Test ID	Result	Units
Total Coliform by Presence/Absence	PRESENT	

CONTAMINATED: Water supply should be disinfected and retested before it is used as drinking water or for household purposes

There is a bottle in the mail for you
to resample after you have followed
the disinfection procedures

Lab Comment:

Approved by: LJH

Questions about results or billing? Call Environmental Laboratory, "Water Micro" @ (406) 444-2642 or fax us at (406) 444-2617. For other questions, or for technical support please call your county sanitarian, or MT Department of Environmental Quality, Community Services Bureau, Drinking Water Program @ (406) 444-4400

B-5

**Department of Public Health and Human Services
Environmental Laboratory**

Cogswell Building, Rm B219, 1400 Broadway, Helena MT 59620

- RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS -

STANLEY M GRESS
1411 NO CENTER AVE
HARDIN MT 59034

Acct # PRIVATE T77501
Date Printed 10/04/2000

Collect Date: 10/02/00
Collect Time: 6:00
Collected By: STANLEY M GRESS
Chlorine Residual:
Sample Type:

Lab #: W0010-06696

PWSID #:

Sample ID: STANLEY M GRESS - 1411 NO CENTER - WELL

Test ID	Result	Units
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Total Coliform by Presence/Absence

PRESENT

CONTAMINATED: Water supply should be disinfected and retested before it is used as drinking water or for household purposes

Lab Comment:

Approved by: 8/17+

Questions about results or billing? Call Environmental Laboratory, "Water Micro" @ (406) 444-2642 or fax us at (406) 444-2617. For other questions, or for technical support please call your county sanitarian, or MT Department of Environmental Quality, Community Services Bureau, Drinking Water Program @ (406) 444-4400

B-7

**Department of Public Health and Human Services
Environmental Laboratory**

Cogswell Building, Rm B219, 1400 Broadway, Helena MT 59620

- RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS -

LISA MAINE
1407 NO CUSTER AVE
HARDIN MT 59034

Acct # PRIVATE T77289

Date Printed: 7/12/00

Lab #: W0007-04523

PWSID #:

Sample ID: LISA MAINE - 13TH

Collect Date: 7/10/00

Collect Time: 9:30

Collected By: LISA MAINE

Chlorine Residual:

Test ID

Result

Units

Total Coliform by Presence/Absence

PRESENT

FECAL COLIFORMS PRESENT. CONTAMINATED. BOIL WATER FOR AT LEAST 5 MINUTES BEFORE
USING FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

Left Message 7/12/00 @ 1:30 pm.

Lab Comment:

Approved by: LMT

Questions about results or billing? Call Environmental Laboratory, "Water Micro" @ (406) 444-2642 or fax us at (406) 444-2617. For other questions, or for technical support please call your county sanitarian, or MT Department of Environmental Quality, Community Services Bureau, Drinking Water Program @ (406) 444-4400

B-8 ✓

**Department of Public Health and Human Services
Environmental Laboratory**

Cogswell Building, Rm B219, 1400 Broadway, Helena MT 59620

- RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS -

LISA MAINE
1407 NO CUSTER AVE
HARDIN MT 59034

Acct # PRIVATE T77289

Date Printed: 7/12/00

Collect Date: 7/10/00

Collect Time: 9:40

Collected By: LISA MAINE

Chlorine Residual:

Lab #: W0007-04521

PWSID #:

Sample ID: LISA MAINE - house - well

Test ID

Result

Units

Total Coliform by Presence/Absence

PRESENT

CONTAMINATED: Water supply should be disinfected and retested before it is used as drinking water or for household purposes

Left Message 7/12/00 @ 1:30 pm.

Lab Comment:

Approved by: LT

Questions about results or billing? Call Environmental Laboratory, "Water Micro" @ (406) 444-2642 or fax us at (406) 444-2617. For other questions, or for technical support please call your county sanitarian, or MT Department of Environmental Quality, Community Services Bureau, Drinking Water Program @ (406) 444-4400

B-9

**Department of Public Health and Human Services
Environmental Laboratory**

Cogswell Building, Rm B219, 1400 Broadway, Helena MT 59620

- RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS -

LISA MAINE
1407 NO CUSTER AVE
HARDIN MT 59034

Acct # PRIVATE T77289

Date Printed: 7/12/00

Lab #: W0007-04522

PWSID #:

Sample ID: LISA MAINE - GABLE *- end of Gable - ditch*

Collect Date: 7/10/00

Collect Time: 9:30

Collected By: LISA MAINE

Chlorine Residual:

Test ID

Result

Units

Total Coliform by Presence/Absence

PRESENT

FECAL COLIFORMS PRESENT. CONTAMINATED. BOIL WATER FOR AT LEAST 5 MINUTES BEFORE
USING FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

Left Message 7/12/00 @ 1:30 pm.

Lab Comment:

Approved by: *ZJH*

Questions about results or billing? Call Environmental Laboratory, "Water Micro" @ (406) 444-2642 or fax us at (406) 444-2617. For other questions, or for technical support please call your county sanitarian, or MT Department of Environmental Quality, Community Services Bureau, Drinking Water Program @ (406) 444-4400

4
EXHIBIT

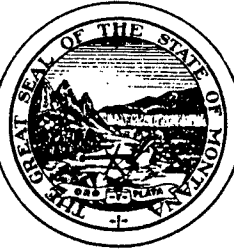
DATE

Jan 13, 09

11



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
PERMITTING & COMPLIANCE DIVISION
COMMUNITY SERVICES BUREAU



MARC RACICOT, GOVERNOR

AIRPORT INDUSTRIAL PARK IP-9
1371 RIMTOP DR.
BILLINGS, MT. 59105-1978

STATE OF MONTANA

PHONE: (406) 247-4445

FAX: (406) 247-4456

Mr. Craig Taft, R.S.
Big Horn County Health Dept.
809 N. Custer Ave.
Hardin, Montana 59034

November 20, 2000

Re: Watson Drive Housing Area in Hardin.

Dear Craig:

The purpose of my visit to the Watson Drive housing area on October 31, 2000 and request for water samples was to determine if surface water or groundwater contamination was occurring from the on-site sewage disposal systems. This visit was in response to a complaint received by the Department of Environmental Quality regarding failed drainfields and contaminated private wells.

Enclosed are the results of the analysis performed on the water samples from the Watson Drive housing area. These samples were collected by the residents and provided to us through your office. Analysis was performed with a field spectrophotometer, model Hach DR/2010. Therefore, the collection and analysis was not performed according to prescribed methods. However, the accuracy is sufficient to determine if potential threats to human health and the environment exist, and if further sampling is warranted.

Based on the sample results and my field observations, I cannot say that there is a violation of the Montana Water Quality Act at this time. However, there is potential for effluent from failed systems getting into the irrigation ditches. It is my understanding that the ditches in this area return to the Big Horn River and would be considered State waters. Thus any discharge to the ditches would be a violation. During my visit it was reported to me that sewage has been discharged to the ditches in the past.

Although I did not find any violations, I would like to comment on the groundwater quality and the poor site conditions for supporting private wells and onsite sewage disposal systems.

Well logs from the area indicate that wells are typically 21 to 28 feet deep and static water level is at 5 to 12 feet. If these were public wells, the DEQ would require full time disinfection to achieve 99.99% removal and/or inactivation of viruses. Some of the private wells have a history of positive coliform contamination. This could be a result of the shallow water table, nearby drainfields and ditches, and/or inappropriate sanitary well seals. It is my opinion that all or most of the wells in the subdivision are vulnerable to virus contamination, even wells with negative coliform tests.

Mr. Craig Taft, R.S.

November 20, 2000

Page 2

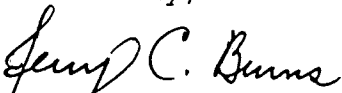
Some of the wells may also be under the direct influence of surface water. This poses a risk of contamination of Giardia Cysts and Cryptosporidium Oocysts, in addition to bacteria and viruses. Some of the wells scored sufficient points on the preliminary assessment to recommend further investigation.

The nitrate results were all well below the limit of 10 mg/l. Sulfate concentrations are not regulated at this time. However, EPA has proposed a limit of 500 mg/l for regulation by some time next year. The sulfate levels were too high for us to measure. We were provided with a lab result for sulfate from one well. The concentration was 2150 mg/l. This is significantly above the proposed maximum contaminant level of 500mg/l. The total dissolved solids concentrations ranged from 2080 mg/l to 3540 mg/l. The recommended limit is 500 mg/l for aesthetic reasons. However, water with levels higher than 500 mg/l are frequently used for drinking water. The variation in concentration of the measured parameters is of some concern. The ditches and drainfields may have some impact on the water quality of the wells.

The site conditions are not adequate for drainfields per current design requirements. Information provided by you indicates that the percolation rates are slower than 60 minutes per inch and that insufficient area is available for replacement areas and proper separation from wells and ditches. However, since this area was platted prior to the subdivision regulations, it is not in violation.

In summary, I was not able to determine a groundwater or surface water violation of the Montana Water Quality Act, or a violation of the subdivision regulations. However, the wells and drainfields do not meet current standards and do pose a human health risk. Without a violation or the existence of a public water supply well in this area I cannot take any action at this time. However, if I can be of further assistance please contact me at 247-4445. Please feel free to use this letter as a letter of support for obtaining financial assistance to provide municipal services from the City of Hardin.

Sincerely,

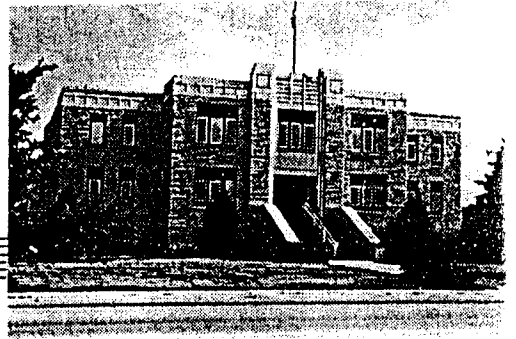


Jerry C. Burns, P.E.
Department of Environmental Quality
Billings Regional Office

cc: Ed Thamke, Enforcement Division
file

BIG HORN COUNTY

HARDIN, MONTANA 59034



January 8, 2001

Ron Adams, Mayor
City of Hardin
406 N. Cheyenne
Hardin, MT 59034

RE: WATSON DRIVE AREA

The high water table has made contamination of wells in the Watson Drive area a significant public health problem. This has also made it detrimental for drainage of septic tanks, making it difficult or impossible for them to function properly, and also expensive for replacement. The Big Horn County Health Department recommends annexation of this area if at all possible, making City water and sewer connections to the involved homes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Whiting MD".

Robert Whiting, MD, Health Officer
Big Horn County Health Department
809 N. Custer

cc: Kris Clausen, Secretary, Watson Drive Annexation

To Land Owners in the Watson Drive Area

Subject: Treasurer State Endowment Grant (TSEP) Grant Hearing.

Date: January 12, 2009 - (Monday)

Time: To be scheduled - Call Larry Vandersloot for further information

Place: Helena, MT

Larry Vandersloot, Hardin Public Works Director, said the Watson Drive area is part of the grant currently being sought for the City of Hardin. People need to tell the grant board why they need sewer and water services. A big turn out, in support of this grant request, would help.

Please indicate below if you are still interested in your property being annexed.

☒ YES

☐ NO

Name: Nelson & Clara Glick

Comments: We purchased this property with the full expectation that this would have to happen. The water condition at the present time is so poor it would hinder any land improvement. We appreciate your attention to this urgent matter.
Thank you,

Lisa Maine Phone: 665-3422

Kris Clausen Phone: 665-3424

Or Larry Vandersloot - City of Hardin - 665-9260

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is to request funding for the annexation of the Watson Dr. area into the city limits of Hardin.

The well water is contaminated, cisterns are cracked, and septic tanks throughout the area are failing.

This is, and has been a continuing problem for over 10 years now, and is just getting worse.

Your consideration to this problem is greatly appreciated. Thank You.

Sincerely,

Nelson Glick 1-10-09

Rt1 Box 1110A

Hardin, MT 59034

406-665-9979

ncga@twest.net

To Montana TSEP Committee

January 8, 2009

From: Kris and Richard Clausen, RR 1 Box 1216E, Hardin, MT 59034 (406) 665-3424

Subject: Support of Project No. 35 – Request for Wastewater System Improvement – City of Hardin.

A group of about 15 families met in June 1999. They were searching for a solution to the urgent need for clean water and sanitary sewer disposal. That search still goes on today, almost 10 years later. The Watson Drive Area is a relatively small area inside the City of Hardin boundary but not part of the city. The area is composed of people on fixed incomes, retired families, small families, 2 older small rental homes and blue collar workers. Most have found the initial cost for the project is impossible for them to take on. We support all attempts to put together fair funding that would be possible for everyone

The area groundwater is contaminated. The wells and cisterns are destroyed by the caustic nature of the soil and groundwater. Septic and mound systems are failing. Soil type, percolation tests, well and cistern water tests, doctor reports, DNRC field reviews, County Sanitarian Review, plumber affidavits, pictures showing the failing systems are all documented. This lets in coliform bacteria from the sewer saturated ground. The percolation for this soil is so poor ...it bubbles up instead of down. There are standing pools of water over the septic tanks and lines. This happens especially during wet times of the year and when contiguous property is irrigated. The smell is terrible, as well as the mosquito and fly problem. This doesn't just affect our area but the northern portion of the city's residential, business district and detention facility.

There are records from grass roots committee meetings that attest to the attempts to obtain sanitary disposal of waste water and fresh water service. Residents have collected income and other data for a CDBG grant – to no avail I have several file boxes full of documentation. We appreciated insights received from Bill Leonard of Midwest Assistance. We tried to form a Rural Water District but were unable to obtain a confirmed water source. Annexation into the City of Hardin would enable the city to be our source for clean water and for waste-water treatment. The committee has tried to obtain help from the Big Horn County Commissioners, Block Grants and Montana Coal Board to no avail. It all comes down to the fact that land owners are not allowed to submit grant requests. Only the City of Hardin can apply for grants for our area.

Now we ask you to consider this need as the application goes forward. We know you have many well deserving places to allot the funds entrusted to you. We hope you will consider our area to be one of them.

Respectfully,

Kris and Richard Clausen

To Montana TSEP Committee

Jan. 9, 2009

From: Lisa & Henry Maine, 1407 N Custer Ave. Hardin MT 59034 406-670-8003

Subject: Support of Project #35 – Request for Wastewater system Improvement- City of Hardin

We are requesting funding for the purpose of annexing into the city of Hardin. We have been trying for over 10 years now to obtain city services, as the well water is contaminated, cisterns are cracking and septic tanks are failing, and cannot be replaced. There are 2 property owners who cannot live on their respective properties because they cannot repair or replace the cisterns & septic tanks. Two more property owners whose address is their property, but they are not there very often because of the situations they are in with the septic tanks. The majority of septic tanks have already failed. Most of these cannot be replaced because the property is not large enough to support the size drain field needed for the house. The one property where the tank was replaced, it was replaced with a mound system, which failed, as the sewage can be seen in the ditch behind the system, before the ditch water is turned on in the spring. Also, this mound system is within 50 ft. of a neighboring homeowners well, not to mention the well of the property where the mound system is located.

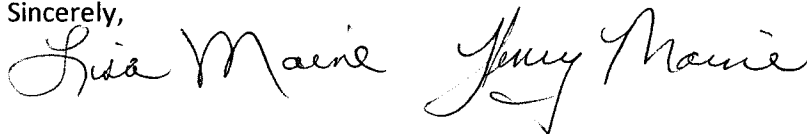
We are at the point where, without any funding, the cost required to put in the new sewer & water lines would make most, if not all the properties impossible to sell, or even refinance. Example: property value is \$95,000.00, add a cost of \$40,000 - \$50,000, that's \$135,000 - \$145,000. The property simple isn't worth that. Worst case is the lot that's worth \$35,000, no way that property owner can sell that with an added cost on it of \$40,000. All of us who live in this area know we will have an SID, we just want it to be reasonable & affordable.

Most of us in this area replace faucets & fixtures every year or two, as the well water is so hard, it literally eats the fixtures. We have to scrape sediment out of our hot water heaters every year or so. And every once in awhile a small child will get sick because he/ she accidentally drank the water. Because of the septic systems being so bad, you cannot put toilet paper in the toilet, most of us have a trash can next to the toilet for all the paper. Some of the septic tanks have already started to cave in, although they are still in use.

Mostly we want to be able to drink our water, let our children drink the water, and be able to shower and flush the toilet every time. We just want to have a safe and clean environment in which to live & raise our families.

Any funding we receive for this project will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for considering the Hardin-Watson Dr. project.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Lisa Maine and Henry Maine in cursive script.

Lisa Maine
Henry Maine

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is to request funding for the annexation of the Watson Dr. area into the city limits of Hardin.

The well water is contaminated, cisterns are cracked, and septic tanks throughout the area are failing.

This is, and has been a continuing problem for over 10 years now, and is just getting worse.

Your consideration to this problem is greatly appreciated. Thank You.

Sincerely, *Shawn Thompson*

P.S. The EXISTING septic tanks & DRAIN FIELDS
ARE GOING ON 50-60 YRS old - The Mound
System that WAS installed don't work very
good AS IT SEEPS into the IRRIGATION DITCH
IT SHOULD NEVER BEEN installed

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Virginia Bauman

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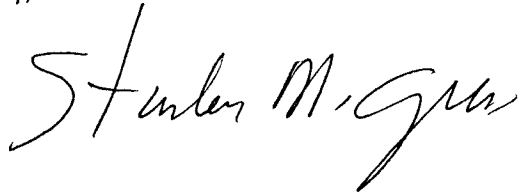
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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stanley M. Galt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

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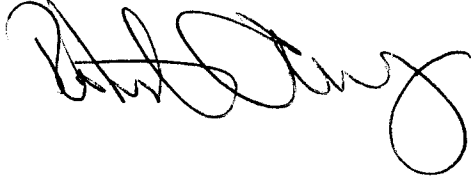
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "A. D. King", written in a cursive style.

To Land Owners in the Watson Drive Area

Subject: Treasurer State Endowment Grant (TSEP) Grant Hearing.

Date: January 12, 2009 – (Monday)

Time: To be scheduled - Call Larry Vandersloot for further information

Place: Helena, MT

Larry Vandersloot, Hardin Public Works Director, said the Watson Drive area is part of the grant currently being sought for the City of Hardin. People need to tell the grant board why they need sewer and water services. A big turn out, in support of this grant request, would help.

Please indicate below if you are still interested in your property being annexed.

☒ YES

☐ NO

Name: Robert and Deborah Avery

Comments: This is a need

Thank you,

Lisa Maine Phone: 665-3422

Kris Clausen Phone: 665-3424

Or Larry Vandersloot – City of Hardin - 665-9260

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☒ YES

☐ NO

Name: ERWIN THYRDARSON

Comments: BEEN WANTING WATER & SEWER SINCE 1995

Thank you,

Lisa Maine Phone: 665-3422

Kris Clausen Phone: 665-3424

Or Larry Vandersloot – City of Hardin - 665-9260